

Chapter 472

(House Bill 178)

AN ACT concerning

Vehicle Laws – Disabled Veteran Registration Plates – Issuance

FOR the purpose of authorizing the Motor Vehicle Administration to issue certain special disabled veteran registration plates to certain disabled veterans; prohibiting the Administration from charging certain persons the fee required for replacement registration plates under certain circumstances; and generally relating to the issuance of special disabled veteran registration plates.

BY adding to

Article – Transportation

Section 13–619.4

Annotated Code of Maryland

(2020 Replacement Volume and 2023 Supplement)

BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,

Article – Transportation

Section 13–903(a)(8)

Annotated Code of Maryland

(2020 Replacement Volume and 2023 Supplement)

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,
That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

Article – Transportation

13–619.4.

(A) THE OWNER OF A MOTOR VEHICLE, OR A LESSEE OF THE VEHICLE UNDER A LEASE NOT INTENDED AS SECURITY, MAY APPLY TO THE ADMINISTRATION FOR THE ASSIGNMENT OF SPECIAL DISABLED VETERAN REGISTRATION PLATES UNDER THIS SECTION FOR A VEHICLE INCLUDED IN ONE OF THE FOLLOWING CLASSES:

(1) A CLASS A (PASSENGER) VEHICLE;

(2) A CLASS E (TRUCK) VEHICLE WITH A 1 TON OR LESS MANUFACTURER’S RATED CAPACITY;

(3) A CLASS M (MULTIPURPOSE) VEHICLE; OR

(4) A CLASS D (MOTORCYCLE) VEHICLE.

(B) TO BE ELIGIBLE FOR A SPECIAL DISABLED VETERAN REGISTRATION PLATE UNDER THIS SECTION, AN APPLICANT SHALL PROVIDE PROOF THAT IS SATISFACTORY TO THE ADMINISTRATION THAT THE APPLICANT IS AN ARMED FORCES VETERAN WHO IS BETWEEN 50% AND 99%, INCLUSIVE, SERVICE-CONNECTED DISABLED AS DESIGNATED OR CLASSIFIED BY THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.

(C) THE ADMINISTRATION MAY ISSUE A SPECIAL DISABLED VETERAN REGISTRATION PLATE THAT DOES NOT DISPLAY THE INTERNATIONAL SYMBOL OF ACCESS IN RECOGNITION OF THE VEHICLE OWNER'S SERVICE-CONNECTED DISABILITY TO AN INDIVIDUAL WHO IS AN ARMED FORCES VETERAN AND IS BETWEEN 50% AND 99%, INCLUSIVE, SERVICE-CONNECTED DISABLED.

(D) THE ADMINISTRATION:

(1) SHALL CHARGE THE ANNUAL REGISTRATION FEE AND SURCHARGE OTHERWISE REQUIRED UNDER THIS TITLE FOR SPECIAL DISABLED VETERAN REGISTRATION PLATES ISSUED UNDER THIS SECTION; AND

(2) MAY NOT CHARGE OR RETAIN ANY ADDITIONAL FEE FOR THE SPECIAL REGISTRATION PLATES.

(E) SPECIAL DISABLED VETERAN REGISTRATION PLATES ISSUED UNDER THIS SECTION:

(1) MAY CONSIST OF ANY COMBINATION OF LETTERS, NUMERALS, OR BOTH; AND

(2) SHALL STATE "DISABLED VETERAN" ON THE SPECIAL REGISTRATION PLATES.

(F) (1) IF THE OWNERSHIP OF A MOTOR VEHICLE ASSIGNED SPECIAL DISABLED VETERAN REGISTRATION PLATES UNDER THIS SECTION IS TRANSFERRED FROM THE DISABLED VETERAN WHO QUALIFIED FOR THE SPECIAL REGISTRATION PLATES TO AN INDIVIDUAL WHO DOES NOT QUALIFY FOR THE SPECIAL REGISTRATION PLATES:

(I) 1. THE TRANSFEROR SHALL RETURN THE SPECIAL REGISTRATION PLATES TO THE ADMINISTRATION; AND

2. THE TRANSFEREE SHALL OBTAIN VEHICLE TITLE,

REGISTRATION, AND REGISTRATION PLATES AS REQUIRED BY LAW; AND

(II) IF THE TRANSFEROR AND THE TRANSFEREE WERE JOINT OWNERS OF THE MOTOR VEHICLE BEFORE THE TRANSFER, THE ADMINISTRATION MAY NOT CHARGE THE TRANSFEREE THE FEE OTHERWISE REQUIRED FOR THE REPLACEMENT OF REGISTRATION PLATES UNDER § 13-952 OF THIS TITLE.

(2) IF THE OWNERSHIP OF A MOTOR VEHICLE ASSIGNED SPECIAL DISABLED VETERAN REGISTRATION PLATES UNDER THIS SECTION IS TRANSFERRED FROM THE DISABLED VETERAN WHO QUALIFIED FOR THE SPECIAL REGISTRATION PLATES TO THE DISABLED VETERAN'S SPOUSE WHO DOES NOT QUALIFY FOR THE SPECIAL REGISTRATION PLATES:

(I) 1. THE TRANSFEROR SHALL RETURN THE SPECIAL REGISTRATION PLATES TO THE ADMINISTRATION; AND

2. THE TRANSFEREE SHALL OBTAIN VEHICLE TITLE, REGISTRATION, AND REGISTRATION PLATES AS REQUIRED BY LAW; AND

(II) THE ADMINISTRATION MAY NOT CHARGE THE TRANSFEREE THE FEE OTHERWISE REQUIRED FOR THE REPLACEMENT OF REGISTRATION PLATES UNDER § 13-952 OF THIS TITLE.

(G) THE ADMINISTRATION MAY ADOPT REGULATIONS NECESSARY TO GOVERN THE ISSUANCE OF THE SPECIAL DISABLED VETERAN REGISTRATION PLATES UNDER THIS SECTION.

13-903.

(a) The following vehicles are exempt from the registration fees specified in this subtitle:

(8) A vehicle owned by, or leased to, and personally used by a veteran who:

(i) As designated or classified by the Veterans' Administration, has lost the use of a hand, arm, or leg, or is totally disabled; or

(ii) Has a permanent impairment of both eyes so that:

1. The central visual acuity is 20/200 or less in the better eye, with corrective glasses; or

2. There is a field defect in which the peripheral field has contracted to such an extent that the widest diameter of visual field subtends an angular distance no greater than 20 degrees in the better eye;

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect October 1, 2024.

Approved by the Governor, May 9, 2024.